

that my colleagues join me in wishing him the very best in his future endeavors.

HONORING ISRAEL'S 66TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the state of Israel and its people on the 66th anniversary of Israel's founding.

Israel is the only stable democracy in the Middle East and the United States' closest ally and friend. Our relationship, built on trust, shared values and a common experience, serves to advance the cause of democracy and freedom worldwide.

Israel is the homeland of the Jewish people. It has been the spiritual center for Jews for thousands of years. In recent years, Israel has become a hub of technology and innovation. In 66 short years, the Jewish people have built a thriving economy in the shadow of their ancient ruins.

Last month, I stood at the Babi Yar memorial in Ukraine. Alone at the site of a massacre with only a yahrtzeit candle flickering, where Einsatzgruppen killed tens of thousands of Jews, I reflected on my heritage. My four grandparents were from Ukraine, and I've often thought that if it weren't for their foresight in leaving Ukraine when they did, I would never have been born. I reflected on the thousands who have been killed because of their faith.

While Israel was not founded because of the Holocaust, the Holocaust is a powerful reminder of what the world could look like without a safe haven for the Jewish people. Israel is its own protector and the United States must stand with Israel as Israel seeks to defend itself against existential threats.

As we celebrate Israel's Independence Day, we also remember those who have fallen in service to their country. I am proud to stand here in celebration of the freedoms that Israel stands for.

SUCCESS AND OPPORTUNITY THROUGH QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to amend the Charter School Program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965:

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Chair, today I rise in support of the Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act, H.R. 10. I believe it is imperative that America provide high-quality public education so that our students can succeed and compete in the global economy. I am a strong supporter of public education, from early education programs such as Head Start and Pre-K to higher edu-

cation and career and technical education. As we look to improve educational outcomes, we cannot overlook the promise of innovative teaching practices and charter schools.

This new authorization of the Charter School Program makes important improvements to the existing charter school framework. In particular, I support provisions to aid in the dissemination of best practices from charter schools to other public schools, and the updated language that helps extend the reach of charter schools into communities that are currently underserved, including minorities and those with special needs.

However, the underlying bill is not perfect. While one of the founding ideas behind charter schools is to reduce red tape and let educators take the reins, there have been worrying reports of gross mismanagement and embezzlement of public funds by some charter school staff, which requires some attention. I think the amendment offered by Representative CASTOR goes some way to addressing this issue, which would require the Department of Education to develop and publish regulations addressing conflicts of interest surrounding charter schools.

In addition, I support the amendments offered by Representative JACKSON LEE and Representative BONAMICI respectively, which would increase the information available to parents and the public related to attendance of charter schools, and the efforts in disseminating and implementing best practices across the public school spectrum.

There is more work to be done improving our education system, but we must be mindful not to create a two-tiered public school system. I hope H.R. 10 provides the intended improvements to charter schools, and the public education system as a whole.

IN HONOR OF THE NATIONAL AS- SOCIATION OF POLICE OFFICERS' 2014 TOP COPS WINNERS FROM MASSACHUSETTS

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the twenty-one law enforcement officers from Massachusetts honored by the National Association of Police Officers' 2014 Top Cops Award.

These brave officers have gone well beyond the call of duty in order to protect our citizens and keep us safe. I am proud to know that these officers are working to protect us and would like to express my gratitude for their service by presenting their names:

Boston Police Department: Police Officer Omar Borges, Detective Kenneth M. Conley, Police Officer Gregory R. Eunis, Police Officer Jarrod Gero, Police Officer Jean Gerard JeanLouis, Detective John B. Joyce, Police Officer Terence Long, Police Officer Gregory McCormick, Police Officer Richard G. Moriarty, Police Officer John Moynihan, Police Officer John M. Noberini, Police Officer Jason A. Nuñez, Police Officer Scott Pulchansingh, Detective Joseph G. Scaringello, Police Officer Dennis O. Simmonds, Police Officer Walter J. Suprey, and Sergeant Detective Kevin E. Waggett.

Massachusetts State Police: Trooper Christopher J. Dumont.

Watertown Police Department: Police Officer Miguel A. Colon, Jr.; Police Officer Michael W. Comick; Sergeant John C.P. MacLellan; Police Officer Timothy B. Menton; Sergeant Jeffrey J. Pugliese; Police Officer Joseph Reynolds, and Police Officer Jean S. Sarkissian.

Many of these officers were on duty during the Boston Marathon bombings last year, and the search for the perpetrators that followed the bombings. These courageous men embody the best ideals of our country, and have dedicated their lives to our security.

Mr. Speaker, it brings me great pride to recognize these officers and the incredible work they have done in the past year, and, indeed, every day. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing these officers and their role in protecting our citizens.

STATEMENT OF INTRODUCTION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would make a simple modification to the Civil Monetary Penalty Law. The modification will ensure that physicians and hospitals can align incentives, which is especially important since they are being called upon to do this more often in the pursuit of providing improved care at a lower cost. In the movement to replace fee for service medicine with a model that emphasizes quality, this legislation will facilitate relationships that will allow movement in this direction. The modification will ensure that the penalties for the Civil Monetary Penalty Law are fully retained; the modification makes no change to the penalties prescribed under the law. However, the modification will allow hospitals and physicians to enter into relationships designed to decrease the provision of medically unnecessary services. This legislation recognizes that in the new delivery system models, the emphasis should be on reducing the provision of medically unnecessary services for patients. After all, such services do not serve the patient—who may suffer from hospital acquired infections, if kept in the hospital longer than necessary, for example. Such services also are not in furtherance of the goal of operating a more efficient, higher quality health care system. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

HONORING MAYOR PETER A. CANTU'S 40TH YEAR IN PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and accomplishments of Mayor Peter A. Cantu, who has served with distinction as a member of the governing body of Plainsboro, New Jersey for the past 40 years and has been a leader in municipal governance for the entire state of New Jersey.

Peter Cantu was a teenager when his family relocated to Plainsboro over 50 years ago. At

the time, the small farming community in central New Jersey was renowned for its agricultural produce and for the Walker-Gordon dairy, home of the famous Elsie, the Borden Cow. Peter met the love of his life, Gale Thompson, in high school and they were married and settled down in the neighboring community of Princeton where their two children, Peter and Patricia were born.

The Cantus moved back to Plainsboro and Peter, who was then beginning a long career with the IBM Corporation, became involved in the Township, as a member of the Volunteer Fire Company, Lions Club and several other organizations as well as serving on the Town Council, an advisory body to the Township Committee.

In the 1970's, some of the farms became available for development, and the town government approved thousands of housing units without any master plan or overall growth management plan. Outraged by this lack of vision, Peter Cantu decided to run for local office. He won, and the rest is history, a history he helped write.

And it is a different history than it could have been without Peter Cantu. Under his leadership over the past 40 years, Plainsboro today is a thriving, diverse community of over 22,000, honored for its planning and smart growth and for having 50 percent of the township land permanently dedicated as open space, parks, and nature preserves, a notable feature for a town in the most densely populated state in America. It has a variety of housing options—rental apartments, condominiums, and private houses for those with low and moderate incomes and higher. It is home to the University Medical Center of Princeton at Plainsboro, the national headquarters of one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies, and other corporations and businesses. When the town developed a new town center, Mayor Cantu and the planners put at its center not a shopping mall or an office park, but a modern, active public library. Is it any wonder that New Jersey Monthly Magazine recognized Plainsboro as "One of the Ten Best Places to Live in New Jersey".

Mayor Peter Cantu would never claim that Plainsboro's success was all his doing. He would say that without the input and hard work of all the members of the Township Committee and the support of the residents of Plainsboro, this would not have happened. And I would agree. But it is his style of leadership that has made this happen. Peter Cantu is a patient builder of consensus. He listens attentively to other points of view and takes the time to explain the rationale for decisions. Public hearings are open and neighborhoods are kept aware of what is planned.

And perhaps the best indicator of his talent to lead can be found in his ability to remain Mayor for so many years. Plainsboro's Township form of government calls for an election of some members each year, who select which one will be Mayor for a year each January. Peter's fellow Township Committee members have chosen him to be Mayor 34 times.

Peter Cantu's long career in local government is an inspiration to those who follow. I ask that you join me in recognizing his significant contributions to the well-being of his community and state, and thank him for his lifetime of service.

RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF MINNESOTA STATE REPRESENTATIVE TOM HUNTLEY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the retirement of Minnesota State Representative Tom Huntley. Rep. Huntley has served for more than 20 years in the Minnesota State House, proudly representing his constituents in Duluth, Minnesota.

In 1993, Tom and I were sworn in together at the State Legislature where we both served on the Health and Human Services Committee. Early on, it was clear that Tom was a man acutely aware of how his work affected the people of Minnesota. Tom had a reputation for taking every opportunity to help educate his colleagues, staff, and citizens about any issue, especially on the on-going needs in primary and rural health care. He has an incredible mind for policy, but during his service, he never lost sight of the way that those policies impacted people.

Tom's ability to combine a focus on outcomes for health care patients with a keen eye for ensuring that taxpayer dollars were well spent made him an effective force in the State Capitol. Tom was always willing to work with both Republicans and Democrats to move the issues he cared about forward. As author of the Freedom to Breathe Act, his work with Republican Representative Dan Severson made Minnesota the 17th state to enact a statewide smoking ban, improving the public health of all Minnesotans.

Under the leadership of Tom Huntley, Minnesota has become a model for delivering high-quality health care to its citizens. He was involved in the implementation of MinnesotaCare, ensuring thousands of working families in Minnesota had access to health coverage and Tom has worked tirelessly with his colleagues to improve and protect it. As Chair of the Health and Human Services Finance Committee, he championed the 2007 and 2008 statewide health reform laws, legislation to expand Medical Assistance, and numerous other provisions positively impacting the lives of nearly every Minnesotan. And as an early advocate for the Affordable Care Act, Tom saw the federal law as a way to build on the reforms already taking place in Minnesota. It is no exaggeration to say that Tom has had a hand in crafting nearly every piece of health care legislation in Minnesota during the past two decades.

In addition to his health care achievements, Tom has been a strong advocate on issues relating to the Great Lakes. In October 2004, he was elected as Chair of the bi-national Great Lakes Commission. In that role, Tom helped bring additional national attention to the ongoing needs related to the health and protection of this international treasure. And it is because of his leadership that Minnesota was the first state to approve the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

Tom has been an incredible advocate for his constituents, mentor to my Legislative Director Jenn Holcomb, and a true statesman. He will retire from the state legislature this

month with the knowledge that his work had a lasting and profound impact on the state of Minnesota. Tom's leadership will be truly missed and I look forward to continuing our friendship for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed the amendment votes to H.R. 10 on Friday, May 9, 2014.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 212, the Castor amendment; "yes" on rollcall No. 213, the Jackson-Lee amendment; "yes" on rollcall No. 214, the Wilson (FL) amendment; "yes" on rollcall No. 215, the Langevin amendment; and "yes" on rollcall No. 216, the Bonamici amendment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW BEDFORD WOMEN'S MILITARY MEMORIAL

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the New Bedford Women's Military Memorial, which was dedicated on May 10 at Fort Taber in New Bedford.

This monument is located in the City of New Bedford to honor all women in military service from the Revolutionary War to the present day, and it is only the second such memorial in Massachusetts. Since the founding of our nation, women have served our country with courage, patriotism, and selflessness in times of peace and in times of war. In addition to their service, these women have fulfilled many other roles, including as mothers, sisters, daughters, wives, and of course, friends.

Although women were not officially recognized in the Armed Forces until the founding of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901, countless women have served our country both directly and indirectly throughout our history. One of the earliest examples is Deborah Samson Gannett of Massachusetts who, in spite of her gender, enlisted to serve in the Army during the Revolutionary War, using her deceased brother's name as an alias. Since then, countless women have contributed to the U.S. Armed Forces as nurses, water bearers, cooks, and even saboteurs, helping to ensure our freedom. They served at home and abroad, during times of peace and on the battlefield, and were essential in helping to shape our great nation over the centuries. The New Bedford Military Memorial aptly honors these women and the many sacrifices they made.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the New Bedford Women's Military Memorial. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing our women in service, as well as the dedicated individuals who have worked for two years to make this memorial a reality.